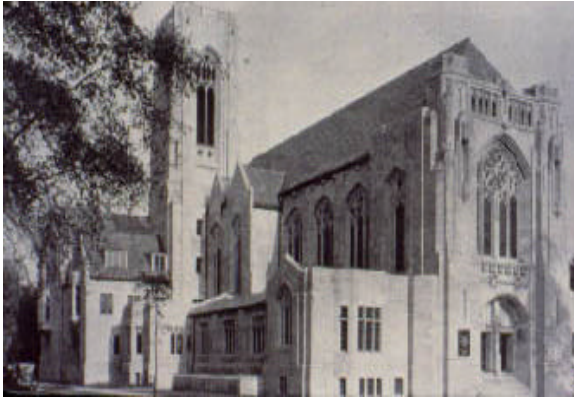


Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church

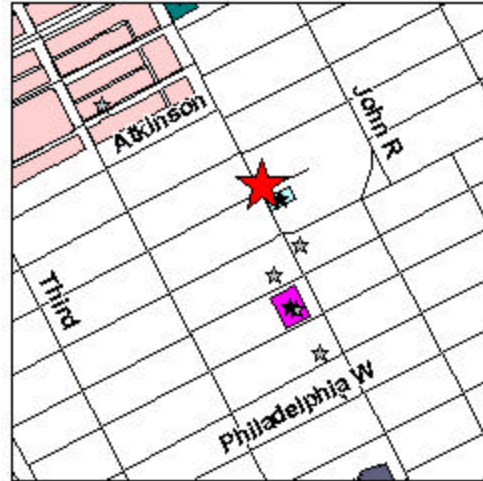
Formally Central Woodward Christian Church

9000 Woodward Avenue.

Local v 2/2/6/93
State
State Marker
National



Little Rock Church.



Historic overview:

The original owner of the building at the corner of Woodward and Josephine was Central-Woodward Christian Church. The congregation descended from a religious sect founded in 1812 called the Society of Disciples by Alexander Campell. The society went through several name and location changes as well as religious splits over the next several decades. The sects finally came together in 1890 to build a permanent location at the corner of Ledyard and Second. As the surrounding neighborhood deteriorated they considered another move. This time their building was funded by the donations of Mrs. Ella Ford and Mr. Phillip H. Gray. It was designed by George D. Mason and Company for a cost of \$500,000. By 1950 the congregation began to dissipate with the gradual move to the suburbs. The church was sold to Little Rock Missionary Baptist in 1978. Little Rock Missionary Baptist started in 1936 with only six members under the leadership of rev. Robert E. Tate. Over the next few decades, changes of leadership occurred after the death of Rev. Tate in 1953. Rev. Jim Holley became pastor in 1972 and led them to their new church building.

George D. Mason & Co. designed the church (1927-28) in the Modern Gothic style, “a movement to create buildings based in tradition but designed for the time.” The dedication book states “The endeavor...has been to produce a building of English Gothic architecture, handling it in a modern way, braking away in many cases from precedent.” The church is built of Indiana limestone. It has a slate roof, leaded cleared and stained glass windows and copper trim.

